

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	08/973,416	HARA ET AL.	
	Examiner Kevin R Kruer	Art Unit 1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1.  This communication is responsive to the RCE filed April 4, 2005.
2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-31.
3.  The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All
  - b)  Some\*
  - c)  None
 of the:
  1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

#### Attachment(s)

1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2.  Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 4/04/2005
4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 24-31 are allowable over the prior art.

The closest prior art is Koyama et al (US 5,663,223). Koyama teaches a pelletized (see example 1) composition comprising polyvinyl alcohol, olefin resin (claim 1), and an oxygen-absorbing agent (col 6, lines 18+). The polyvinyl alcohol, olefin resin, and absorbing agent are mixed, and the resulting mixture is pelletized (example 1). The pellet of Koyama fails to anticipate or render obvious the claimed pellet because said pellet does not require the presence of water in order to absorb oxygen when 50 grams of the pellet are stored at 15°C for one week in a sealed 180ml container. As noted by Applicant on page 6 of the response entered 11/15/2004, Table 1 of the specification shows that the claimed pellet absorbs a substantial amount of oxygen after one week when stored in the presence of distilled water under the claimed conditions (embodiments 1-4), but that no oxygen is absorb after one week when stored under identical conditions with the exception that no distilled water is present (reference examples 1-4). In contrast, the pellet of Koyama will absorb oxygen in the presence or absence of water. As shown in the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 submitted on May 16, 2001, when the pellets are prepared by kneading all the compounds together as taught in Koyama, the pellet will absorb water even in the absence of water.

The prior art thus fails to teach the claimed pellet comprising a hydrophilic reducing organic compound, a hydrophilic and water insoluble thermoplastic resin, and a hydrophobic thermoplastic resin wherein "50 grams of the pellet when stored at 15°C

for one week in a sealed 180ml container requires the presence of water in order to absorb oxygen." Furthermore, the prior art fails to render the claimed product obvious.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

The information disclosure statement filed 4/04/2005 has been fully considered and an initialed copy of said IDS is enclosed herein. The examiner notes that the claims searched in the search reports included in the IDS were not commensurate in scope with the allowed claims. Thus, the "X" and "Y" references cited therein do anticipate or render obvious the allowed claims.

***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin R Kruer whose telephone number is 571-272-1510. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carol Chaney can be reached on 571-272-1284. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*K-RK-*

Kevin R. Kruer  
Patent Examiner-Art Unit 1773